

1904 *Camp*

BOWLAND

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

JOSEPH J. SMITHIES,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR 1904.

M. A. WHEWELL, PRINTER, CLITHEROE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.


Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report
for the year 1904.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. J. SMITHIES.



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BOWLAND
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1904.

Because of the very valuable and detailed Report of Dr. Kaye, the County Medical Officer of Health, dealing with all particulars concerning the general character and localities of my District, and which was issued in March, 1903, it is not more than necessary for me to allude to the doings of the year.

It will be well however to remember some of the changes that have recently occurred.

Concisely then:

POPULATION.

Taking the population in the first place, in 1902, Grindleton was added to the Gisburn District, so that the registration for that district both as to births and deaths is very much more than it used to be.

		1881	1891	1901-2
Whole District	..	5825	5292	5237
Gisburn	... ..	2023	1943	2560
Slaidburn	...	1489	1395	1395
Clitheroe Sub-District	...	1636	1753	1136
Whalley	... ..	144	146	146
		5292	5237	5237

ACREAGE.

The Acreage of the whole District is 83 · 343.

The District is 19 miles wide by 14 miles North to South.

The river Hodder runs directly through the centre of the District, and with its various tributaries is the chief means of drainage and water supply. Salmon and Sea Trout migrate in great numbers to the river in spawning season from July to end of October. The river Ribble begins to divide the Lancashire and Yorkshire Counties at Smithies Bridge, Sawley. From the point at Nappa to the meeting of the waters at Hodder Foot it adjoins the Bowland Rural District. It abounds with Trout as far as the Weir at Clitheroe being preserved. But below this is more or less polluted.

The district is Agricultural, and although even since I remember there were many ploughed fields in the district, yet it is now the exception, for it is generally put down as grass land for the grazing and rearing of stock. Thus Butter Making and Milk are the chief products, indeed the quantity of Milk sent from News-holme, Gisburn, Chatburn and Clitheroe is very considerable, and from year to year seems to increase. Of course this is as a rule sent to the large towns of Lancashire, because many farms of the district lie at a convenient distance from the railway stations.

TEMPERATURE.

The mean annual temperature is 46·9, and the mean annual rainfall is 47·695 inches, but this latter must have been considerably exceeded during 1903.

YEAR BOOK.

The year book as compiled by your Clerk, Mr. Thomas Eastham, is very good for reference, full of detail and gives much information at a glance, in this all the acreage of various localities, population, number of houses, rateable value for each is given.

DISINFECTING APPARATUS

We have no Disinfecting Apparatus, and after my experience of Infectious Disease this year, and the large number of cases of Scarlet Fever. I would advise that a good useful one should be obtained, and be regularly in care of your Nuisance Inspector for use.

We have had no cases of overcrowding.

Two or three New Houses have been built in the district.

SCAVANGING.

Waddington and Bolton-by-Bowland have public scavenging but as a rule the pail system is adopted, and I continue to advise this method at the outlying farms as the best, rather than the very objectionable Ash and Privie Middens, which were, and are still in existence at some places.

In the Pail System the farmer is bound to remove the contents more regularly, and as I very often say it is the duty of every man to keep his own door step clean. Here I cannot help but quote Dr. Kaye, "The inhabitants are cleanly and house proud, though many seem not to have the same regard for the rear of the dwelling as for the front."

WATER SUPPLY.

The Scheme for Dale Head has been completed and gives much satisfaction, although the arrangement of taps for the washing and drinking convenience of the children at the school is not what it should be.

The new Scheme at Waddington has been completed and now gives every satisfaction.

The Water at Grindleton is not always as clean and pure as it might be. This is explained thus I think. The Water Supply is from the Clitheroe Corporation (and this is considered very good). Well as it is taken to Grindleton on account of a deep gully that there is to pass through, a syphon like sort of laying of pipes exists, so that much deposit gets into this bend. In my opinion the valve at this point is not so regularly opened and flushed as it ought to be. It is an easy and very important matter to have this attended to. Please remember the suggestion.

Water Supply is yet very necessary at Paythorne, Monibent Farm, Carters Farm, and to Copy Nook Public House, as well as to Farms above Waddington.

Water Supply to Farms is chiefly by means of springs and wells, and pipes are laid in to the houses as can be best arranged.

Bashall Eaves has its little Reservoir, supplying lower part of district, and at Mytton some of the houses are supplied from Barrow Print Works.

SEWERING AND DRAINING.

Schemes have been submitted for the Sewerage of Waddington and Bolton-by-Bowland, and I presume are at present being considered by you.

Grindleton, West Bradford and Slaidburn will also demand your consideration

The great advantage of adopting these Schemes has been proved by the Gisburn venture, for this village has ever since had a wonderfully clean bill of health, compared to its former condition.

The Nuisance Inspector is active where Nuisance is reported, and by occasional inspection where there is any suspicion, manages to keep the people up to order.

Cowsheds and Dairies &c., have been inspected.

FACTORIES.

I have nothing more to say with regard to the Factories than what I said in my report last year, i.e. There are three Factories, one Tannery and one Bakehouse.

Of the three Cotton Mills two are at Grindleton, higher and lower, and one at West Bradford.

At each of these mills both steam and water power is available. A turbine being fixed in each mill for use when there is a good water supply.

About 104 people are employed at the Higher Mill, Grindleton, it is regularly whitewashed and kept clean. There is Closet accommodation for male and female which might be better.

About 20 people are employed at the Lower Mill. This is an old fashioned Mill, and I believe was formerly used as a Corn Mill, and is evidently used because of its good water supply. The Closets are not as well arranged as they might be, and the pails require to be more regularly emptied.

The West Bradford Mill gives employment regularly to about 50 people, this Mill is in a good position and under careful supervision. I consider the general arrangements good and the Sanitary condition of the Mill excellent. Electricity is used for lighting purposes here.

A Register of Workshops is kept at the Clerk's Office.

I consider Waddington and West Bradford the most progressive villages in the district.

ANTHRAX

On the 7th June I received a letter from Superintendent of Police, Settle, as to a Cow supposed to be suffering from Anthrax. This belonged to Mr. R. E. Robinson. The cow was destroyed and Police regulations carried out.

TUBERCULOSIS IN COWS.

On the 16th of May because of a letter from Dr. Kaye, as to a case of Tuberculoses at Bank Top Farm, Paythorn. It appears that on analysis at Manchester, the germ of Tuberculosis was found and traced to this farm.

I visited the farm and found that the animal died on the 23rd day of April, and that the carcass had been sent to the Knackers yard. It is very important that any suspected case should be at once reported. The Nuisance Inspector, who is very practical on this subject, has since then kept a sharp look out.

In all cases of Infectious disease, disinfectants have been supplied by the Nuisance Inspector, he has also personally fumigated, or employed someone to do it, by means of sulphur fumes all the houses where Scarlatina or other infectious disease has existed.

I visited Farms and Houses to which the Infectious reports applied and gave the necessary instructions, and also issued the red hand bill as a sort of reminder.

SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLS CLOSURE.

As already intimated in my Quarterly Reports, the following Schools were closed because of Searlet Fever and Measles.

Rimington or Stopper Lane. From Sepetember 2nd to 19th, for Scarlet Fever.

Waddington and West Bradford Schools were closed for twenty-one days, September 1st to 26th, for Measles.

Bashall Eaves School was closed from September 19th to October 3rd, on account of Scarlet Fever and suspicious sore throats.

Lane Ends School was closed October 12th, for fourteen days, by Managers because of Measles.

Sawley School. Nov. 7th. The attendance was not good, but School was not closed.

Rimington. Nov. 22nd. On this day I found the attendance at the School so bad, more particularly because parents were scared about sending their children, and also because the Managers expressed a unanimous wish that the School should be closed. I accordingly closed until December 23rd, which together with the Christmas holidays meant quite six weeks of a closure.

Bolton-by-Bowland. Dec. 6th. Because of a sudden and severe epidemic of Measles I closed the School until the 23rd of December. In this case also the Christmas holidays were near.

During the Christmas Vacation I suggested that every School in the district should be thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and ventilated. I believe this has been done.

VITAL STATISTICS. BIRTH RATE.

The number of Births in the whole district was 133. 75 Males, 58 Females. This gives a Birth rate of 25·3 per 1000. per annum and compared with other years reads thus :

Years.	...	Births	Years.	...	Births
1904	...	133.	1898	...	117
1903	...	115.	1897	...	113
1902	...	114.	1896	...	117
1901	...	124.	1895	...	134
1900	...	123.	1894	...	121
1899	...	131.			

The averages for the 10 years from 1894 to 1903 is 121,
Of these Births 72 were registered at Gisburn.

35	do.	Slaidburn.
24	do.	Clitheroe Sub-District.
2	do.	Whalley.

133

DEATH RATES.

There were 73 Deaths in the whole district, which gives a
Death rate of 13·6 per 1000 per annum, and as compared with
each of the last 10 years the following Table will show.

35 were Males and 38 Females.

SEE TABLE I.

Of these Deaths	35	were registered at	Gisburn.
	20	do.	Slaidburn.
	15	do.	Clitheroe Sub-District
	3	do.	Whalley.
	<hr/>		
	73		
	<hr/>		

There were 10 Deaths in Children of under one year
giving an Infantile Death Rate of 75·2 per 1000 Births registered
as compared with other years. See Table II.

22 were in persons of over 65 years of age.

15 were from Chest affections, Bronchitis or Pneumonia
and 6 from Heart Disease.

There were 3 deaths from Measles and its effects, 2 from
Typhoid Fever and 1 from Whooping Cough.

TABLE 1

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and previous Years.

BOWLAND RURAL DISTRICT.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number	Rate*	Under 1 Year of age		At all Ages.		Number	Rate*
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births Registered	Number	Rate*		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1894	5292	121	22·8	12	99·1	60	11·3	60	11·3
1895	"	134	25·3	17	131·7	83	15·6	83	15·6
1896	"	117	22·1	8	68·3	76	14·3	76	14·3
1897	"	113	21·3	13	115	92	17·3	92	17·3
1898	"	117	22·1	5	42·7	61	11·5	61	11·5
1899	"	131	24·9	6	45·8	67	12·6	67	12·6
1900	"	123	23·2	8	65	81	15·6	81	15·6
1901	5237	124	23·6	8	65	69	13·1	69	13·1
1902	"	114	21·7	9	78·9	64	12·2	64	12·2
1903	"	115	21·9	11	95·6	69	13·1	69	13·1
Averages for years 1894-03	"	121	22·9	10	80·7	72	13·7	72	13·7
1904	"	133	25·3	10	75·2	73	13·6	73	13·6

* Rates in Column 4, 8 and 10 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 83343 acres

Total population at all ages	5237	} At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses	1144	
Average number of persons per house	4·5	

The following Table gives at a glance the causes of death.

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 60	60 and upwards	Males	Females
Measles	3	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	3
Whooping Cough	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Typhoid F'ver	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1
Infantile Diarrhœa	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Phthisis Bronchitis	4	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	4
& Pneumonia	15	4	1	...	...	3	7	9	6
Heart Disease	6	...	...	...	...	2	4	2	4
Injuries and Suicide	5	...	...	2	1	2	...	3	2
Other diseases	37	4	4	2	6	8	11	20	15
Total	73	10	8	5	10	18	22	37	36

Death Rate 13.6

Four of the 73 Deaths were really in none residents, two being killed by accident and 2 were visiting and died in the district. Of course their deaths were registered here. One resident died at the Asylum.

Table II. Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1904 and previous years.
BOWLAND RURAL DISTRICT.

Names of Localities	WHOLE DISTRICT				GISBURN				SLAIDBURN				CLITHEROE SUB-DISTRICT				WHALLEY SUB-DISTRICT			
	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births Registered	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births Registered	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 year
Year	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>
1894	5292	121	60	12	2023	55	25	7	1489	30	11	1	1636	32	24	—	144	4	4	—
1895	"	134	83	17	"	43	31	4	"	39	15	3	"	46	37	10	"	6	—	—
1896	"	117	76	8	"	48	35	5	"	32	17	1	"	31	24	2	"	6	—	—
1897	"	113	92	13	"	46	43	7	"	31	22	4	"	35	26	2	"	1	1	—
1898	"	117	61	5	"	51	22	1	"	37	16	2	"	29	19	1	"	—	4	1
1899	"	131	67	6	"	40	24	4	"	54	15	1	"	35	26	1	"	2	2	—
1900	"	123	81	8	"	51	36	5	"	27	21	—	"	38	24	3	"	7	—	—
1901	5237	124	69	8	2560	66	42	4	1395	29	10	1	1136	23	12	2	146	6	1	1
1902	"	114	64	9	"	55	26	2	"	31	19	4	"	22	17	2	"	6	2	1
1903	"	115	69	11	"	57	28	4	"	25	19	4	"	31	19	2	"	2	3	1
Averages of Years 1894-03	"	121	72	10	"	51	31	4	"	33	16	2	"	32	23	2	"	4	2	4
1904	"	133	73	10	"	72	35	5	"	35	20	2	"	24	15	2	"	2	3	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There have been 62 Cases of Infectious Disease reported during the year, which is by far the largest number in any year since my appointment.

58 were Scarlet Fever.

4 were Typhoid Fever.

As in accompanying Tables.

WHOLE DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease.	All ages.	Up to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.
Scarlet Fever	58	18	33	5	3
Enteric Fever	4		2	...	2
Total	62	18	35	4	5

EACH LOCALITY.

Notifiable Disease.	Gisburn.	Slaidburn.	Clitheroe Sub.	Whalley Sub.
Scarlet Fever	40	3	15	0
Enteric Fever	1	...	3	0
Total	41	3	18	0

Although the number of cases of Scarlet Fever was so great there was no death from this cause.

The epidemics of Scarlet Fever and Measles seemed to go through the whole district, and the adjoining Country.

My visitation to the Cases and other particulars of minor importance were alluded to in my Quarterly Reports. I attach to this Report the two Mortality Tables as required by you, also Tables I, II, III, and IV., as required by the Local Government Board, also Table C. as required by the County Medical Officer, together with a copy of a handbill that I issue in all cases of notified disease.

February 7th, 1905.

NUISANCE INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

TO J. J. SMITHIES, ESQ., MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

DEAR SIR,

I herewith submit to you my Annual Report.

There are 53 Dairies and Cowsheds registered in the area of the Bowland Rural District Council, which are now almost all in good condition, with regard to floors, ventilation, light, and water supply is being improved to where same is deficient. There is one Farm at Waddington occupied by W. Slinger where the Shippons are totally unfit for milk selling, and if the owner will not put the same into a proper sanitary condition during the coming summer, this man ought not to be allowed to supply the people in the village of Waddington with milk.

With regard to Slaughter Houses there are 10 in the District and several of them have been greatly improved during the past year, and I will see that the remainder are put into proper sanitary condition during the present year.

The supply of water to Hodgeon Moor, Higher and Lower Braddup Farms, and Page Fold Farms have not yet been rectified, this is a matter which ought to be pushed on, as the present supply is in a very unsatisfactory way and liable to great pollution. The small Water Scheme at Dale Head was completed on the 25th June last, and the water turned on, on that date. The following houses were connected at that time, the

Post Office and adjoining Cottage, the Public House and Stable, also one tap at the School. I am of opinion that the Vicarage ought to be connected, as there is danger of the present supply thereto being polluted, and the way the School and School House are at present supplied is very unsatisfactory, there only being one tap fixed for both the School and School House, and there are no Lavatory Basins fixed at the school for the use of the scholars. There is nothing done up to the present time with regard to a supply of water to Copy Nook Public House, the owner is trying to come to terms about a supply which he seems to think will be arranged shortly. I am also of opinion that the village of Bolton-by-Bowland needs a better supply of water than there is at the present time. I understand that Lord Ribblesdale's, Agent, R. I. Robinson, Esq., has got a good supply of water found at Paythorn, by sinking a well over 100 feet deep, and come to a large amount of water which he proposes supplying their tenants with by some machanical arrangement, the well is completed at the present time.

The arrangement for carrying out the Sewerage Scheme at Waddington is being pushed on as fast as possible, and no doubt the works will be commenced as soon as possible, and when completed will no doubt be a good thing for the village. At Slaidburn I went over the village in November last along with Mr. Waterworth, Agent to W. King-Wilkinson, Esq., with regard to improving all the slopstone drains, &c., since then he has promised me they will commence to relay the drains and fix gullies and trapped slopstone pipes to all their houses as soon as the weather is a little more settled.

There has been a good lot of sickness in the District during the past six months, I have supplied disinfectants to schools and all places where any Infectious Disease has been reported. Several schools in the district have been thoroughly disinfected

and fumigated by me personally, and all houses where fever has been reported, have been fumigated personally by me, or where promising to do them themselves I have supplied the fumigaters and given them full instructions. At Newby School House, Rimington occupied by Atkinson's, where the whole family have had the Scarlet Fever, all their Woollen Clothes and Blankets &c., have been destroyed, and a supply of new Clothes and Blankets supplied at a cost of a little over £4.

I remain,

Yours truly,

ALFRED BURROW,

Inspector of Nuisances.

Gisburn,

February 24, 1905.